

Second Joint Italian–German Purine Club Meeting: “Progress in purinergic receptor pharmacology and function”

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Two years ago, the highly successful First Joint Italian–German Purine Club Meeting took place in Chieti organized under the auspices of the Italian and German chapters of the International Purine Club. The local organization was in the hands of Prof. F. Caciagli and his expert team at the University of Chieti-Pescara. It was a challenge for us to take over the organization of the second meeting of these series in Leipzig, trying to cope with the expectations of our fellow scientists based on their most positive experiences in Chieti. This special issue of *Purinergic Signalling* brings together 19 solicited reviews and original research papers that were selected on the basis of their significance and novelty.

The review articles deal with structural and developmental aspects of P2 receptors, their normal regulatory function under physiological conditions, as well as their involvement in brain disorders and neuroprotection. The

original publications concentrate on the design of new chemical ligands and antibodies to support future research and on the mechanisms of purine release, receptor regulation, neurodegeneration, and neuroprotection. All publications were peer-reviewed according to normal journal policy.

We are grateful to the editor in chief of our journal, Prof. G. Burnstock, and the staff of Springer for their encouragement and advice in the organization of this volume. Special thanks are due to the president of the Italian Purine Club, Prof. P.A. Borea, for his valuable and continuous collaboration. Ultimately, we gratefully acknowledge the generous financial support of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft to the Leipzig meeting. We are already looking forward to reconvene in Italy on the occasion of the next Joint Italian–German Purine Club Meeting in 2009.

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